Restriction on Import of Palmolein

1574. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken a policy decision to restrict the import of Palmolein to a nominal scale and its allocation to the States and Union Territories for distribution through PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider their decision;

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to face the adverse impact of the decision on the market prices of the edible oils; and

(e) the total allocation of Palmolein oil for 1997 and the total quantity already supplied to the States, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Distribution of Palmolein is not a regular phenomenon under P.D.S. as in the case of Rice, Wheat, Sugar and Kerosene. Government imports Palmolein through S.T.C. and distributes through PDS as a market intervention measure wherever necessary.

(e) A total quantity of 11,325 MT of imported palmolein has been allocated to the following States/UTs for January and February, 1997 to be supplied from the existing stocks with the State Trading Corporation :

State/UT	Allocation (Qty. in MTs)
Gujarat	5000
Karnataka	2500
Maharashtra	2800
West Bengal	500
A&N Islands	25
NCT of Delhi	500
Total	11,325

[Translation]

Implementation of Hindi Language

1575. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to fully implement the national language Hindi as an official language during the Golden Jubilee year of our Independence;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether England and Russia have adopted English and Russian language as their respective National languages by disowning the French language being a foreign language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Implementation of the Official Language policy of the Union is being increased continuously through policy of inspiration, encouragement and goodwill and by this the progressive use of Official Language is increasing.

(c) The Government do not have information relating to other countries in this regard.

[English]

Licensing Policy for Sugar Mills

1576. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to freeze the issue of licences for four years in view of the fact that the industry is faced with the excess production; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Government have decided to continue the licensing of Sugar Industry for the present and have issued revised guidelines on 10.1.1997. The licensing procedure has been considerably simplified and, *inter-alia*, includes automatic licences for expansion projects. In order to cater to the requirement of sugar for domestic consumption and exports it is not contemplated to freeze the issue of licences.

Agitation for Higher Cane Prices in Uttar Pradesh

1577. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "Offensive against cane prices planned" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated January 17, 1997;